

Claim 1, the independent claim rejected herein, is directed to “[a]n isolated antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof that binds to an epitope within or overlapping the amino acid sequence: SSDGLWNNNQTQLFLEHS (SEQ ID NO:1).” Support for the phrase “or overlapping” in claim 1 can be found in the specification at, e.g., paragraph number 42, which states that “[a] preferred anti-KIM-1 antibody binds to an epitope within, overlapping, or in close proximity to the amino acid sequence SSDGLWNNNQTQLFLEHS (SEQ ID NO: 1) in KIM-1” (emphasis added). In view of these remarks, applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 and claims 4-7, 11, 23, 26, 29, 30, 33, 34, 37, 38, and 41 that depend therefrom.

#### CONCLUSIONS

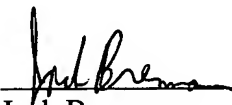
Applicants submit that all grounds for rejection have been overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 13751-032001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

June 14, 2005

  
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